

Application No. 10/618,105
Amendment dated August 29, 2007
Reply to Office Action of May 30, 2007

Docket No.: NY-KIT 359-US

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An image processing apparatus having synthesizing means for synthesizing image information in the form of digital signals and template information, the apparatus comprising:

the template information having a reference display posture corresponding to either a vertical or horizontal posture of the image information, the vertical and horizontal postures having different vertical and horizontal sizes from each other;

rotation processing means for effecting a rotation operation on the template information so as to cause said reference posture thereof to correspond to said either posture of the image information when said posture of the image information differs from said reference display posture of the template information, thereby providing optimum template information for synthesizing the image information; and

according to a posture of the image information which is either a vertical posture or a horizontal posture, the vertical and horizontal postures having different vertical and horizontal sizes from each other, the template information having a reference display posture corresponding to either said vertical or horizontal posture of the image information; and

converting means for converting the template information according to a predetermined rule when said rotation processing means effects the rotation operation.

2. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the template information comprises image data for forming, in said reference display posture, horizontal sides and vertical sides around the image

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information and said rule includes a numerical value representing a ratio so that the horizontal sides and the vertical sides of the template information after the rotation operation thereof are set to a predetermined width ratio for converting a width of the horizontal side of the template information prior to said rotation operation to a width of the vertical side of the template information after said rotation operation and a numerical value representing a ratio for converting a width of the vertical side of the template information prior to said rotation operation to the width of the horizontal side of the template information after said rotation operation.

3. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the template information comprises character string data for displaying a leading character according to a predetermined reference coordinate system in the reference display posture; and said rule includes a parameter for converting a display position of the leading character into a value corresponding to a length of one side of the image information after the rotation operation and a parameter for setting an inter-character distance of the character string according to the length of said one side.
4. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the template information comprise image data to be set within the image information based on predetermined locate information in the reference display posture; and said rule includes a parameter for converting the locate information so that the template information may be displayed at a predetermined position within the image information during the rotation operation.
5. (Currently amended) The image processing apparatus according to claim 2, further comprising an edit processing means including an image layer for storing

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the image information and a template layer for storing the converted template information, the edit processing means being capable of freely adjusting positional relationship between the image layer and the template layer.

6. (Currently amended) An image processing method having the step of synthesizing image information in the form of digital signals and template information; the method comprising the steps of:

setting the template information to a reference display posture corresponding to either a vertical posture or a horizontal posture of the image information, the vertical and horizontal postures having different vertical and horizontal sizes from each other;

rotating the template information according to the posture of the image information so as to cause said reference display posture thereof to correspond to said either posture of the image information when said posture of the image information differs from said reference display posture of the template information, thereby providing optimum template information for synthesizing the image information; and

converting the template information according to a predetermined rule when said rotating step is effected, thereby providing.

7. (Withdrawn) An image processing method for enlarging/reducing template information in the form of a frame-like image, the method comprising the steps of:

dividing the template information into a plurality of frame segments information;

enlarging/reducing at least one of the frame segments information obtained by the dividing step with maintaining a width of the frame segment; and

generating new template information for forming a new frame-like image by using the enlarged/reduced frame segment information.

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8. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein in said step of dividing the template information, the template information is divided into a first area including a frame segment disposed parallel with the reference direction, a second area including a further frame segment disposed normal to the reference direction and a third area flanked between the first area and the second area, and said enlarging/reducing step is effected along the reference direction for the frame segment information included in the first area, said enlarging/reducing step is effected along the direction normal to the reference direction for the further frame segment information included in the second area and said enlarging/reducing step is not effected at all for the frame segment information included in the third area.
9. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein the template information is adapted for forming a frame-like image in the rectangular or substantially rectangular form.
10. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein in the dividing step, within the frame-like mage formed by the template information, there is formed a first rectangle consisting of sides parallel to the reference direction and further sides normal to the reference direction, and the template information is divided into the plurality of frame segments information by cutting off the frame-like image by extensions obtained by extending the respective sides of said first rectangle.
11. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein said first rectangle has a plurality of the sides whose lengths are set so that the rectangle obtains a maximum area within the frame-like image.

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12. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 10, wherein the template information is adapted for forming a projection projecting into the frame-like image, and said first rectangle is formed at a position not separating said projection from a frame portion including this projection.
13. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 8, wherein said predetermined rule is set so that the enlarging/reducing step is effected on either one of the first and second areas.
14. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein the template information is adapted for forming a non-rectangular frame image and in the dividing step, within the non-rectangular frame-like image formed by the template information, there is formed a second rectangle consisting of sides parallel to the reference direction and further sides normal to the reference direction, and the template information is divided into the plurality of frame segments information by cutting off the frame-like image by extensions obtained by extending the respective sides of said second rectangle.
15. (Withdrawn) The image processing method according to claim 7, wherein said reference direction is set normal to a transporting direction of a print paper to which the frame-like image based on the template information is outputted.
16. (Withdrawn) An image processing program executable by a computer for effecting an enlarging/reducing operation on template information for forming a frame-like image, the operation including the steps of:
 - dividing the template information into a plurality of frame segments information;
 - enlarging/reducing at least one of the frame segments information obtained by the dividing step with maintaining a width of the frame segment; and

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generating new template information for forming a new frame-like image by using the enlarged/reduced frame segment information.

17. (Withdrawn) A recording medium storing an image processing program executable by a computer for effecting an enlarging/reducing operation on template information for forming a frame-like image, the operation including the steps of:

dividing the template information into a plurality of frame segments information;

enlarging/reducing at least one of the frame segments information obtained by the dividing step with maintaining a width of the frame segment; and

generating new template information for forming a new frame-like image by using the enlarged/reduced frame segment information.